

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes May 22, 2006

Attendance:

Members Present:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Angela Barnett
Bob Coen
Buddy Green
Kathy Halliday
Joan Loftus
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Rhia Perry

- I. Commission Member Gil Kennedy, designated acting Chairperson by Chairperson Buddy Green, called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. Commission members and visitors introduced themselves.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the April 24, 2006 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Applications have been received for Commission vacancies in the categories of:

- A county citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business; and
- Individuals representing agencies serving individuals with disabilities;

No applications have been received for the student representative for

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



the 2006/2007 school year. Discussion took place about possibly broadening the category to include students interested in disability issues, as well as students with disabilities. Decision on the issue was deferred. Commission members interested in serving on the application review committee are asked to contact Sharon Grzanka.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Gil Kennedy announced that Beverly Dean Crabtree of Rebuilding Together, Inc. will make a presentation at the June 26, 2006 Commission meeting. Ms. Dean Crabtree will discuss their proposal to administer the Commission's Community Development Block Grant-funded Ramps Program.
2. Housing Coalition: The Housing Coalition met with Shawn Kingston, Director of the Harford County Housing Agency about a newly-funded project. More to follow.

C. Education Committee: No new information.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Commission web page: No report.
2. Legislative Committee: Updated information on the 2006 Legislative Session and bill signing was distributed.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report:

- A. Information on the World of Possibilities Expo and Gubernatorial Candidates Forum held May 19-21 was distributed.
- B. The Governor's Report on Homeland Security was made available.
- C. Kids CAN Mentoring Program Coordinator, Michelle Shaivitz, reports that a 14 year old teen with disabilities needs an adult mentor. Interested adults should call Michelle at 410-638-3333.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee: The steering committee is working with Harford Cable Network to develop a travel training video. The video will be available on the Commission

on Disabilities and Harford Transit's web pages. More information to follow.

- B. Emergency Preparedness: No new information.
- C. Updating Commission on Disabilities Brochure: No new information.
- D. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House and Fair: The event will be held on October 7, 2006 at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library. More information to follow.
- E. Harford County Town Hall Meeting (previously known as the Mental Health Town Hall meeting) will be held on December 4, 2006. The event will focus on cross-disability issues. Service providers will have exhibits and invited guests will include local elected officials and the public. More information to follow.
- F. Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities: The Commission authorized Sharon Grzanka to research appropriate means to incorporate the Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities as a committee of the Commission on Disabilities and to report back to the Commission.

VI. New Business:

- A. Secretary Kristen Cox of the Maryland Department of Disabilities will visit Harford County on Monday, June 5, 2006. She will meet with cross-agency groups to discuss the Harford County Summer Jobs Program for High School Students with Disabilities, the Harford County Transportation Coordination Initiative, and the new Peer Support Drop In Center sponsored by the Core Service Agency. At 11:45 a.m. the Commission on Disabilities will sponsor a public session with Secretary Cox, who will discuss the Maryland State Disabilities Plan and other disability-related issues. The public meeting will be held at the Harford County Council Chambers at 212 South Bond Street, Bel Air. A sign language interpreter will be available.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements:

- A. Commissioner Gil Kennedy announced that he has been elected to serve as the President of the Board of Directors of the Arc of Baltimore County. Congratulations, Gil!

- B. Gil Kennedy also announced that the Greater Harford Soccer Club is sponsoring a soccer program for children with disabilities from pre-school to 18 years of age.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, June 26, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.